



Tapu'itea

...ina ia manino le folauā.

Official American Samoa Government Weekly Newsletter



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In This Issue

*ASG retirees
see increase in
monthly
benefit checks
Pg. 2*

*WASC grants
three-year
accreditation
to Nu'uuli
Polytech High
School
Pg. 3*

*Social Security
checks will
increase by
5.8% in 2009
Pg. 3*

*Notary Act of
2007 takes
effect October
29, 2008
Pg. 4*

*DOI awards
\$250K
Technical
Assistance for
ASPA
Pg. 5*

*Historical Notes
& much more...*

*For additional
news,
information
and much,
much, more
about your
government,
visit the
ASG Website
at
<http://www.americansamoa.gov>*

Governor proclaims 2008 Annual Moso'oi Festival

Governor Togiola Tulafono has proclaimed October 10 – October 25, 2008 as the 2008 Annual Moso'oi Festival in American Samoa, and he is asking the people of the territory to take notice of the planned events and to participate in their success-ful observance.

According to Togiola, American Samoa is blessed with beauty, rich cultural resources, unique village sites, and an island community whose social organization and culture are distinctly unique and attrac-

tive to visitors from around the world.

In addition, the hospitality industry promotes American Samoa's traditional heritage and customs, while preserving its majestic ocean, pristine air, mystic mountains, and religious freedom.

According to the proclamation, the Moso'oi Festival offers symbolic opportunities to promote our island culture, by developing sports competition, heritage, beauty, botanical health and wellness, village and ocean

tours. "Tourism enhances the quality of life, cultivates international goodwill, and provides opportunity for our young women to participate in the 'Pride in Pacific Culture' A Heritage and Legacy 2008 Miss South Pacific Pageant," Togiola proclaimed.

He concluded, "The leaders of American Samoa recognize that the entire citizenry must join efforts and show their talents through activities that will enhance and safeguard our Pacific way of life."

Governor wants to see agricultural products from Manu'a being sold locally

Governor Togiola Tulafono told the listeners of his paid radio program that he saw much improvement in agriculture in the Manu'a Islands during a recent visit, and that is why he announced during a gathering in Manu'a that it's about time the farmers there transport their goods to Tutuila so everyone can benefit from their locally grown products.

According to the Governor, there is a big difference between taro grown in Manu'a, those grown in Tutuila, and those that are imported from the independent state of Samoa. In addition, he said he also witnessed vast improvements in the growth of vegetables in Manu'a.

Togiola said that perhaps in the near future, or even during the next MV Sili trip, no freight charges will be imposed on all agricultural and fish products being imported from the Manu'a Islands.

He says he believes Manu'a farmers should be treated the same as Tutuila farmers, meaning Manu'a farmers should be able to sell their produce widely in Tutuila, as well as get the opportunity to provide supplies for the federally funded school lunch program.

ASG retirees see increase in monthly benefit checks

A total of 822 American Samoa Government retirees saw an increase in their monthly benefit checks issued this week, thanks to an Administration bill that recently passed in the Fono and approved by Governor Togiola Tulafono. The remainder of ASG retirees will get their hikes at the end of the month. In addition, beneficiaries will receive a lump sum check, as the new law is retroactive back to October 1, 2006.

The new law gives 95% of the 1,500 beneficiaries of the ASG Employees' Retirement Fund a 2% increase in the cost-of-living allowance (COLA). This is for people who retired on or prior to September 30, 2006.

(Local law requires the ASGERF Board to review the COLA every two years.)

The new law removes an old amendment to the COLA review for recent retirees. For several years, adjustments were calculated according to the date of retirement; however, 100% of retirees will now be considered for COLA adjustments in the future.

The Board does not have a fixed increase amount for the COLA because the economy and world market indicators tend to fluctuate.

Retirement Office Executive Director Filisouaiga Ta'afua told the Fono earlier this year that the monthly benefits pay-outs are about \$1.1 million for 1,500 retirees, with the highest retirement payment being about \$4,000.

Contributions on a monthly basis add up to \$776,000 and income earned by the Fund on its off-island investment is used to offset the shortfall in those monthly payments. If the money collected from the investments decreases, the Board says the last resort would be to increase contributions from members.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD
VOTE ON NOVEMBER 4TH

Togiola says the Segaula is effective in serving the needs of Manu'a

While other candidates running for office have initiated campaign advertisements proposing the sale of the government-owned Segaula aircraft, Governor Togiola Tulafono believes otherwise, saying the airplane has been very effective in meeting the needs of the residents of the Manu'a Islands and therefore, should be kept.

Campaign advertisements have suggested that the Segaula be sold, with the proceeds going to help the private sector in operating the Manu'a route.

Togiola explained that when the Segaula was purchased a few years back, the intention was to secure an aircraft that could be used in emergency cases. And this, according to Togiola, has been the main focus all along.

He referred to the Segaula's role in providing much needed transportation services between Tutuila and Manu'a over the past years during emergency medical evacuations, urgent situations, and other critical times when the ASG aircraft had to step up and provide services when Inter Island Airways was unavailable.

The Governor said the Segaula was even used to transport supplies for the school lunch program while ocean transportation was undergoing improvements. For these reasons, Togiola says the Segaula has been effective in meeting the needs of the Manu'a Islands and that is why the aircraft should be retained.

SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES IN YOUR ASG NEWSLETTER

with your ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:

Harry Stevens (harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov or Tialuga Vince Iuli (vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov)

WASC grants three-year accreditation to Nuuuli Polytech High School

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) has issued an accreditation notice to the local Department of Education, informing them that Nuuuli Polytech High School has been granted accreditation for a period of three years.

The three-year term expires on June 30, 2011. Schools that receive a three-year term will be subject to a two-day visit by a WASC committee during the third year.

WASC has recommended that within the three years, the school must submit a progress report addressing different areas including improved student achievement relative to school wide learning expectations; substantial progress toward correcting critical areas for improvement; and appropriate progress on school wide action plans.

In response to requests made by NPTHS PTA president Ropeti Lesa

and Rep. Mary Lauagaia M. Taufete'e, DOE is building an extension for the carpentry class, hired a new teacher for the electricity classes and the vocational education division, and ordered additional supplies and materials for the division of Trades.

Meanwhile, DOE is awaiting the results of the accreditation visit for Manu'a and Samoana High Schools.

Social Security checks will increase by 5.8% beginning January 2009

Local residents who receive social security benefits under the US Social Security Administration should expect to see an increase in their monthly benefits checks beginning January 2009.

The Social Security Administration announced last week that there will be a 5.8% increase for the new year, making it the highest yearly increase in the cost of living allowance (COLA) in 26 years.

The increase means that the average person will receive an extra \$60 per month. Social security benefits increase annually based on the rise in the consumer price index.

As of December 2007, there were 5,613 social security beneficiaries in American Samoa, which is an increase from the 5,503 local beneficiaries recorded the year before in December 2006.

DOH immunization survey concludes Oct. 31

The Immunization Program of the local Department of Health began its survey for the Islandwide Immunization Coverage Assessment on Monday, October 20.

The program, funded by the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention, will conclude on October 31.

The assessment is necessary in order to evaluate the territory's current immunization rates and services. According to DOH, the results of the assessment will help the program to better plan and enhance future services that will benefit the people of American Samoa.

The targeted age groups are children who are 12-35 months, youngsters who are 6 years old, and adults aged 50 and over.

Volunteers conducting the surveys will be visiting different households across the territory, and they can be identified through their clothing, as well as a DOH identification card.

To ensure that the survey is conducted successfully, DOH is asking local residents to secure their dogs and be prepared to provide shot records. If parents are not home, they are asked to leave the shot records with the child's caregiver.

Notary Act of 2007 takes effect October 29, 2008

Secretary of American Samoa, Lt. Governor Faoa Ipulasi Aitofele Sunia has issued a notice to all vendors and manufacturers of notary seals for American Samoa, announcing that the Notary Act of 2007, Public Law 30-18, as amended by Public Law 30-21, will take effect on October 29, 2008.

Under the new law, no business or individual may manufacture or issue a notary seal for American Samoa without a permit granted by the Secretary of American Samoa.

A section of the Notary Act of 2007 requires every vendor or manufacturer of notary seals to apply to the Secretary for a permit, and a \$50 processing fee is charged as part of the application.

Also included in the new law is a description of the seal image and the information which shall be contained therein. These include the notary name as indicated on the commission; the serial number of the commission; the words 'Notary Public' and 'Territory of American Samoa,' and 'My commission expires' (commission expiration date); the notary's business address; and a border in a rectangular shape no larger than one inch by two inches, surrounding the required words.

Furthermore, the Notary Act of 2007 sets out the procedure and process by which each notary seal shall be issued. As required by law, the vendor or manufacturer of notary seals may verify the business mailing address of any notary in American Samoa by visiting <http://www.americansamoa.gov> and clicking on "Secretary of American Samoa."

With the new regulations, the law provides penalties for failure to comply. A violation of the new procedures and requirements is a class B misdemeanor punishable by no more than 6 months in jail, and/or a fine of not more than \$500.

More information can be obtained by visiting or contacting the Office of Secretary of American Samoa, which is housed in the Governor's Office.

The Office of the Secretary is committed to working with all vendors and manufacturers of notary seals in order to assure a smooth transition under the Notary Act of 2007. Any questions or comments can be forwarded to Marcellus Talaimalo Uiagalelei or Jacinta Galea'i at 633-4116 during regular ASG business hours.

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On October 18, 1966, President Lyndon Baines Johnson and First Lady Claudia Alta Taylor ("Lady Bird") Johnson visited American Samoa. Mrs. Johnson dedicated the "Manulele Tausala" ("Lady Bird") Elementary School in Nu'uuli, which was named after her. (Lyndon Johnson was the only U.S. President to visit American Samoa. Mrs. Johnson was the second First Lady to visit the Territory. The first was (Anna) Eleanor Roosevelt, on August 23, 1943). President Johnson made the following speech to the people of American Samoa:

Governor and Mrs. Lee, Chief Sotoa, Chief Ma'o, Chief Le'iato, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: I am very proud that I could be here with you today. I can assure you that the people of the United States share my pride in what American Samoa has done to prove that destiny is really what we make it. This island--with a population of only 22,000--has become the symbol of what many large nations may achieve for their people. It has become a showplace for progress, and a proving ground of methods to improve the lives of our fellow human beings. And, along the way, American Samoa has taken the term "self-help" out of the bureaucrats' dictionary and made it a living language for their people. You have doubled the per-acre yield of your crops. You have sharply reduced the diseases that once plagued your island. And this month you will begin construction of the American Samoan Tropical Medical Center which will provide the finest hospital care in this part of the world. You have almost eliminated childhood malnutrition. You have recognized that education is the tidal force of our century, driving all else ahead of it. I am told that the pilot program of education which you have started may point the way to learning breakthroughs throughout the Pacific islands and Southeast Asia. Samoan children are learning twice as fast as they once did, and retaining what they learn. Surely from among them, one day, will come scientists and writers to give their talents to Samoa, to America, and to the world. One requirement for good and universal education is an inexpensive and readily available means of teaching children. Unhappily, the world has only a fraction of the teachers that it needs. Samoa has met this problem through educational television--which was pioneered here by your outstanding Governor, Rex Lee, and the very able Director of the United States Information Agency, Mr. Leonard Marks. Before Mr. Marks came out here recently to help inaugurate this educational television system, he came to me at the White House and talked to me about its great benefits at some length. Upon his return, he insisted that he come over, and he spent an entire evening reviewing what your hopes and achievements would be. Everyone now wants to study the job that you have done--UNESCO, the World Bank, New Guinea, New Zealand, India, and other countries around the world. It is truly a remarkable experiment. This technique--which you are helping now to improve--has the power to spread the light of knowledge like wildfire, to spread it all across the wide areas of our earth. So I want to commend you on the stride that you have taken.

(Continued on page 8)

DOI awards \$250K technical assistance grant to fund waste composition study for ASPA

The American Samoa Power Authority has been awarded a technical assistance grant of \$250,000 from the Department of Interior, to fund a waste composition study at its Futiga landfill, which is a vital component in ASPA's plans to establish, among other things, an energy-from-waste (EfW) facility.

ASPA CEO Michael Keyser expressed his appreciation and thanks to DOP's Director of the Office of Insular Affairs Nikolao Pula for his support. "The OIA, and in particular, Mr. Pula, have been ardent supporters of ASPA. I'm pleased to have such a rewarding and productive working relationship with him," said Keyser, who also expressed his gratitude to Governor Togiola Tulafono and Lt. Governor Faoa Ipulasi Sunia for writing letters of support to DOI.

"The Governor and Lieutenant Governor understand the importance of this study as the foundation upon which we can significantly reduce our dependence on diesel fuel," Keyser said.

The ASPA CEO said the waste composition study will be an invaluable resource in the semi-autonomous agency's short and long term internal solid waste master plan – which includes landfill management, solid waste collection services and soon, the operation of an EfW.

He said the feasibility and implementation of an EfW facility has been identified by ASPA's board of directors and management team "as an attainable renewable energy achievement, and is clearly a synergy between our electric and solid waste divisions."

Keyser said ASPA wishes to pursue the opportunity vigorously. And to accomplish this task, a waste characterization analysis is paramount. This includes an approximation of the quantity of municipal solid waste collected by ASPA, which can be accomplished through use of data collected through on-site sorting and supplemented with waste generation rates and American Samoa Customs import/export data.

A waste characterization analysis also includes estimates of MSW composition.

In his July 28 letter of support to Pula, Governor Togiola said the waste composition study is critical not only to ASPA's strategic planning on renewable energy, landfill management and solid waste collection, but also to the territory's integrated approach to waste management.

He added that Hawaii shares the same challenges faced by American Samoa and ASPA, which is the over-dependent demand for imported oil and the rising cost of electricity.

Togiola said for many years, American Samoa has relied on the Futiga landfill for its solid waste disposal. "Although inexpensive to operate, it accumulates substantial long-term costs in terms of public health and environmental damages," Togiola told Pula, adding that EfW is the most responsible means of solid waste disposal, as it reduces the volume of waste that must be disposed in an environmentally-friendly manner, generates valuable renewable energy, and results in a net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions when compared to conventional landfill practices, not to mention the reduction from mitigating the burning of fossil fuel

in the generators.

ASPA's Chief Operating Officer Reno Vivao said the waste composition study will establish EfW capacity and energy output estimates based on the identified waste quantities/qualities, and will make recommendations as to technologies that would apply, based on the quantity and composition of the MSW, to be operated in conjunction with the operation of a small sanitary landfill to receive the ash byproduct.

Vivao said the facility will reduce the quantity of waste destined for the landfill "by a whopping 90%, allowing us to extend the life of the landfill by a significant margin."

Keyser said they are vigorously pursuing EfW because it is the lowest-hanging fruit that will have the most significant impact on the island. He explained that EfW has the potential to offset three million plus gallons of diesel per year, or \$15 million plus in fuel costs.

While those are preliminary estimates, the ASPA CEO said they're very promising. "There may also be the opportunity to oversize the facility and accept neighboring islands' trash to produce energy," he added. "That concept is really exciting."

Earlier this year in July, ASPA issued a request for proposals (RFP) to evaluate, negotiate, and contract with a professional consulting firm to conduct the waste composition study at the Futiga landfill, and provide associated recommendations for the sizing and scoping of an EfW power generation facility.

Two companies submitted proposals prior to the Aug. 26 deadline and the ASPA board of directors will be making their selection in a couple of weeks. The study is expected to start shortly thereafter.

Territory gets \$400K grant funding from US Justice Department

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the US Department of Justice has announced that American Samoa is awarded more than \$400,000 in grant funding for fiscal year 2008.

The bulk of the money - \$350,000 - is awarded to the Department of Human and Social Services, to support and enhance local efforts aimed at stopping the consumption, sale of, and purchase of alcoholic beverages by minors.

The grant comes from the OJJDP's Enforcing Underage Drinking Law (EUDL) Block Grant and is for a two-year project and budget period covering June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2010.

The second award of \$100,000 goes to the Criminal Justice Office under the Title II Formula Grants Program, which provides funding to develop programs that address juvenile delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system.

The goal of the program is to increase the availability and types of prevention and intervention programs. There are no specific descriptions of the projects to be funded with the two awards.

Seven-Time “Who’s Who Among American’s Teachers” Nominee Shergill Retires from ASCC

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

When the current semester got underway at the American Samoa Community College, the faculty, staff and students noticed the absence of one familiar face. Teaching math for the last 16 years, Kuldip Shergill impressed students with his unusual but effective classroom methods. Although he started his professional life in aviation rather than education, his skills as an instructor led his students to nominate him a record seven times for inclusion in the *Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers*, a yearly publication that recognizes educators across the nation who students feel have made a positive impact on their lives. Having resigned this summer due to health concerns, Shergill recalled his long, eventful life and the series of events that saw him begin as a pilot in the Indian Air Force, then find a second career many years later teaching math in American Samoa.

Born in 1942 in the Punjab region of India, a northwestern corner of the country bordering Pakistan and Afghanistan, Shergill grew up in an environment rich in culture and history. “In the Punjab, the battles between Alexander the Great and the warlords of India took place,” he explained. “As for myself, I reached maturity just in time for several of my country’s wars with Pakistan.” He attended the prestigious St. Stephen’s College, an institution set up during Britain’s long colonial rule to prepare promising students for careers in the civil service. Entering the Air Force after graduation, Shergill learned to pilot a number of different aircraft, including helicopters, and eventually settled into a long tenure as a flight instructor.

Eventually tiring of military life, in the mid-1970s Shergill struck out on his own as a freelance pilot and trainer, which led to numerous jobs not only in India, but also in the politically volatile Middle East. The chain of circumstances which led him to American Samoa actually started with a life-threatening incident in Beirut, Lebanon. “I had befriended an American civilian pilot named Claude Horton. One morning we went for a walk along the canal in Beirut, just having a conversation. Then I heard the unmistakable sound of a gun clicking, and turned around to find a Palestinian pointing a weapon at us. He had overheard Claude’s American accent and wanted to shoot him. I could speak some Arabic, and luckily the Palestinian recognized me from the neighborhood. It took a long time, but I convinced the Palestinian not to shoot Claude by telling him that Claude was a British citizen who had gotten the accent while spending time in America. After awhile, the Palestinian relented and left us alone.”

(Continued on page 7)

Shergill Retires from ASCC... *(continued from page 6)*

The incident convinced Shergill that the time had come to change employment locations, so he next found work flying crop-dusting planes in England. “Five years after the incident in Beirut, one day after work I received a message that someone named Horton had telephoned. Claude never forgot how I had intervened that day to save his life, and by then he had made influential connections in the aviation industry back home. He had called to offer me work flying planes in the Gulf of Mexico.” Shergill soon departed for the United States, where Horton arranged for him to take the tests for his American flying licenses. “I passed all of the tests easily,” remembers Shergill, “but then the tester asked if I had a green card to work in the country. We had forgotten that one detail.”

As an Indian citizen, Shergill would have needed to wait perhaps months to receive a green card and work legally in the USA. However, Horton learned through his contacts of an employment opportunity that would only require the US flying licenses Shergill had just obtained. “The planes used by the US fishing fleets in the Pacific usually operated in international waters,” Shergill explained, “and because the fleets frequently hired pilots from other countries, I wouldn’t need my green card for the job. This suited me just fine, and before I knew it, I had received a ticket to travel to a location I’d never heard of called American Samoa.”

For the next several years, Shergill flew the helicopters used by the US purseiner fleets operating out of the Territory, and also served as a trainer and tester for other pilots. “I made the safety inspections on the fleet’s helicopters, tested the new pilots who joined the company, and frequently flew the aircraft myself while a person next to me looked through binoculars to spot movements of schools of fish.” Based in American Samoa full-time, Shergill met his wife-to-be Sina Tau, and the two wed in 1987. The couple has two children, son Kuldip Jr. and daughter Adrienne, both of whom now attend Chaminade University in Honolulu. While the job with the fishing fleets seemed secure, balancing professional responsibilities with his new family eventually caused conflicts. Shergill recalled, “It came to a head after the hurricane of 1990, which struck during one of my work shifts 40 or 50 miles out at sea. When I got back, I needed to look after my family, but the purseiner owner wanted me to go right back out. I said no.”

Mrs. Shergill happened to know the late Mrs. Faauga Achica, who at the time headed Adult Education at ASCC. “My wife mentioned to Mrs. Achica that I had a Bachelors degree from St. Stephen’s in math and science, and might have an interest in a new job,” remembered Shergill. “Mrs. Achica needed a math instructor for her program, so she offered me the position that first brought me to the College.” During his two years working in Adult Education, Shergill’s knack for teaching attracted the attention of the chairman of the Math Department. “The chairman at the time, Larry Oney, first asked me just to fill on his classes while he went off island. He apparently liked my work, because when he returned he offered me a position with the regular faculty.” From 1992 until this summer, Shergill served as a mainstay in the Math Department at ASCC.

Having lived through enough adventures to fill a book, Shergill credits his spiritual foundation for keeping him on a steady inner course through his many life changes. “I ascribe to the Vedanta faith, based on the ancient Veda texts, which embraces all religions,” he explained. “Vedanta teaches that all religions have the goal of bringing the soul back to God, and that the Lord did not create the division between religions, but humans with their own agendas did so. For example, Osama bin Laden takes a few words out of the Koran to justify his evil deeds, but he has purposely misinterpreted the overall meaning of that text, which has a message of salvation and even love.” Shergill follows a strict daily prayer ritual, and often looks to the Vedas for inspiration. “The Vedas say the mind controls the senses,” he explained, “but the mind also falls prey easily to negative emotions. The Vedas describe the thoughts caused by negative emotions as worse than a snake bite, but also teach that if you control the mind and consciously focus on positive thoughts, then the spirit will follow.”

While most retirees look forward to spending their time enjoying themselves, Shergill says he already misses his work. “Should I have the good fortune to heal completely, I would love to return to the classroom,” he says.

(Continued on page 8)

Shergill Retires from ASCC... *(continued from page 7)*

"Whether in public school, private school, college, elementary school, or wherever someone needs a teacher, I would still like to teach." With the life experience he possesses, Shergill could easily pursue other interests besides teaching, but because of his passion for the classroom and helping the students of American Samoa, he would prefer to offer himself as a resource.



Former ASCC math instructor Kuldip Shergill, recognized seven times in the prestigious Who's Who Among America's Teachers, displays a photo from 1965 in which Indian Prime Minister Indira Ghandi boards a helicopter that he will pilot. Shergill retired this summer due to health concerns. (Photo: J. Kneubuhl)



In this photo from 1965, Indian Prime Minister Indira Ghandi boards a helicopter to be piloted by Kuldip Shergill (left). 25 years after this photo was taken, Shergill began teaching math at ASCC, where he remained until his retirement this past summer. (Photo: Courtesy Shergill Family)

HISTORICAL NOTES... *(continued from page 4)*

We are most grateful for the voluntary action of the Samoan Legislature in voting to pay Federal income taxes. You are the only American territory voluntarily to take on this responsibility. Your taxes are growing with your economy. You paid about \$200,000 in 1963--and yet you paid over a million dollars in 1965. At this rate, you may eliminate the deficit in the United States budget this year.

An American editor, who used to have nothing to say about what we were doing in Samoa, recently wrote, "Somewhere on earth there may be a more spectacular example of revolutionary change in an area and its people, but in years of roving the world's far corners, I have not seen it." All praise to you for that No, not quite all praise. Some of it must go to a man that you know better than you do any other American--your own very able Governor, Rex Lee. This year it was my pleasure to give him the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service--an award that is granted to only five individuals each year. I have no appropriate awards to confer upon the people of Samoa for their progress. But there must be great satisfaction and honor enough in contemplating what you have done in 3 years, where you are today, and where the works of progress will lead your children in generations to come. I hope that America may soon accomplish in her other Pacific island responsibilities the same achievements of Samoa. Indeed, I think we must. For no other corner of the world can be left untidy and ignored today. Where once the sailing clippers called rarely in a year, now the jet airliners touch down several times a week. The time is fast coming when there will be no such thing as "a far corner of the earth." So I think this is the way that God intended it. I cannot believe He wanted man to be isolated, ever, from his neighbor. He did not seek that distance or race or religion or creed ever separate us from one another. At the table of need, we all find our place, and the greatest need of all today, I think, is for human fellowship and a sense of what each of us can do for the rest of us.

This is my first visit to American Samoa. I have not been among you but just a moment. But I think I know that what you want most for yourselves and what you want most for your children is really what the vast majority of the world's people want, too. They want to be independent and stand on their self-respect. They want to keep their dignity and to be proud of themselves and their heritage. They insist on equality. They reject being camp followers and stooges for the brokers of international politics. At home it is pride, and the sense of being your own man. In Asia it is called "face." It is what makes all of us members of the same race. It is what makes us know that in the emerging Asia--and throughout the entire world--there is really no place for second-class citizens. Up until our time, it was possible for an island like this to exist in isolation and despair. And it was possible for a large and powerful country like the United States to conceive of itself, also in isolation, as the center of all civilization--indeed, as the center of all human wisdom and glory. But time and change have jostled our prejudice. They have shown us that the center of the world is anywhere that people are. And they have made imperative the spirit of American Samoa today. For the road to the future runs to Asia, and it crosses here--here at the heart of the Pacific.

I want now to thank you from my heart, for what you are doing here is really a message of hope for millions of peoples elsewhere in the Pacific and in Asia. I shall remember your example vividly--and for that, and 'for the privilege of coming and visiting with you today, I shall always be thankful to you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12 noon at Tafuna International Airport in Pago Pago, American Samoa. In his opening words he referred to H. Rex Lee, Governor of American Samoa, and his wife, Chief Rapi Sotoa, member of the Samoan Senate, Chief Tima Ma'o, member of the Samoan House of Representatives, and Chief T. Le'iato, Secretary of Samoan Affairs.